Dilapidated rail bridges

†2853. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such railway bridges in the country which were built almost 100 years ago;

(b) whether any study about durability of these bridges has been made by Government;

(c) if so, the number of bridges found in dilapidated condition; and

(d) whether Government have made any action plan to construct new bridges in place of these dilapidated bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are approximately 1,27,000 railway bridges on Indian Railway system. Out of this, about 51,000 no. of Bridges are more than 100 years old.

(b) to (d) The life of a railway bridge is not based on its age but on physical condition as ascertained by inspections. Railways have a well laid down system of multi-tier inspection of Bridges. Railway undertakes repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during inspection and not on the basis of age. Few bridges which may show signs of deterioration of physical condition indicating need for rehabilitation are classified as Distressed Bridges. These, however, are neither unsafe nor dilapidated bridges. Based on such identification of bridges, allotment of funds is made annually to carry out their repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding duly prioritizing the work as per requirement.

In 2001-02, to clear the backlog of-replacement of such identified bridges on Indian Railways, 2370 bridges were sanctioned for repair/ rehabilitation/rebuilding at a cost of Rs. 1530 Crore (Net) under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF). Apart from SRSF, additional funds are also made available annually in Railway Budget to undertake repair/ rehabilitation of fresh accruals of bridge works under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF). Year-wise repair, rehabilitation/rebuilding of bridges since creation of SRSF is given as below:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	SRSF		DRF	
	No. of Bridges Repaired/ Rehabilitated	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)	No. of Bridges Repaired/ Rehabilitated	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)
2001-02	280	44.10	445	63.96
2002-03	496	151.60	655	47.50
2003-04	530	157.27	1033	71.28
2004-05	375	274.26	1204	116.00
2005-06	239	248.61	1192	161.98
2006-07	167	261.20	947	215.15
2007-08	190	445.50	1254	157.10
	(Target)	(Budget Allotment)	(Target)	(Budget Allotment)

Railway coaches

2854. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new railway coaches made by PSU coach factories in 2005-06 and in the current fiscal year, upto 28th February, 2007;

(b) the number of new passenger coaches released to South Central Railway in 2005-06;

(c) whether it is a fact that trains like Narsonapur Express in Andhra Pradesh have old coaches;

(d) to what extent Government have not given required new passenger coaches to South Central Railway; and

(e) the steps proposed to allot more new passenger coaches to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) M/s Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.(BEML), Bangalore, is the only Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) which manufacture Railway Coaches.